



Fall/Winter 2008 Volume 1 Issue 2

## Montana Breast & Cervical Health Program (MBCHP)

Welcome to the Web Letter. For more information or questions, please contact:

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## Save the Date - May 1, 2009



**Native Women's Journey to Wellness**  
A one day conference promoting leadership skills for community cancer control  
Holiday Inn, 400 10th Avenue South  
Great Falls, Montana

MBCHP serves the five Urban Indian Centers in Montana:  
Helena, Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Butte and the 7 Reservations

American Indian MBCHP Sub-contractors are:

Karen Neumiller – Missoula Indian Center  
Martha Spotted Eagle – Blackfeet Reservation  
Patty Boggs - Native American Indian Alliance (Butte)  
Jackie Monroe - Indian Family Health Clinic (Great Falls)  
Kassie Runsabove –Crow & Northern Cheyenne Reservations  
Dyani Bingham - MT-WY TLC, Billings area, urban outreach  
Sissy McGuire- Fort Belknap & Rocky Boy Reservations  
Carla Lovan – Fort Peck Reservation  
Sally Zapata – Helena Indian Alliance

## Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition (MAIWHC)

The MAIWHC is funded through the Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program as a grass roots group to help promote comprehensive breast and cervical screening services on seven reservations, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe and five urban centers in Montana. MAIWHC meets twice annually and assists with targeted outreach activities in collaboration with their local administrative site.

### Mission

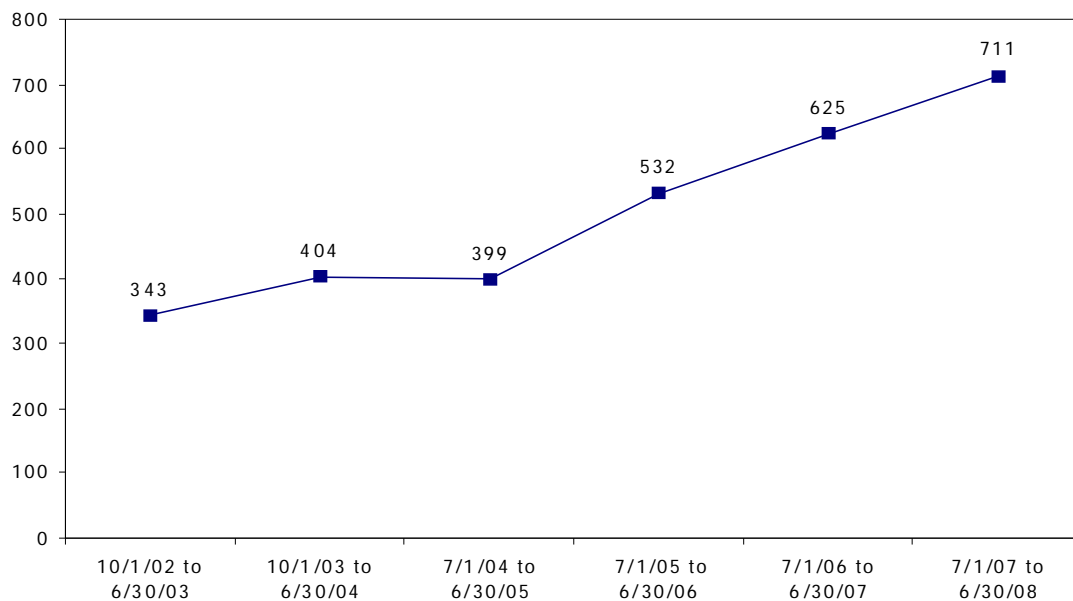
To empower every American Indian woman in Montana, to be a responsible partner for seeking access to quality health care for early detection of breast and cervical cancer.

### Vision

Improve breast and cervical health among Montana American Indian women, emphasizing positive health outcomes through prevention and holistic health promotion

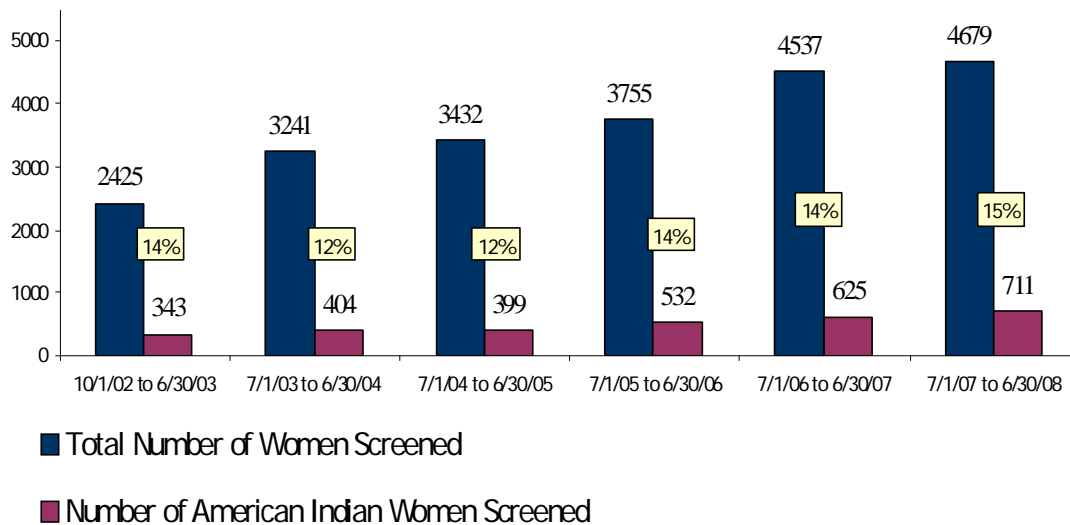
The number of American Indian women served has more than doubled in 5 years since the American Indian Screening Initiative started.

**Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program  
Number of American Indian Women Screened**



American Indian women comprise an average of 14% of all women screened by the MBCHP, although they comprise only approximately 7% of Montana population.

### Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program Percent of American Indian Women Screened



#### Did You Know?

The mission of Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program is to reduce breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality.

The MBCHP provides 1:1 targeted outreach to screen women who are rarely or never screened. They are at the greatest risk for cervical cancer.

The two biggest risks for breast cancer are being a woman and getting older.

There are no warning signs for cervical cancer. A Pap test can find problem cells before they turn into cancer.

The MBCHP will only reimburse HPV testing for a Pap test result of **Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance (ASC-US)**.

The MBCHP recommends liquid based Pap testing be performed every two years on women who have normal Pap tests.

The MBCHP has over 900 enrolled medical service providers statewide.

The MBCHP has 13 administrative sites across the state

MBCHP administrative sites have their highest screening goals ever and need help bringing eligible women into the program.

Eligibility for the  
Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program

Must be underinsured or have no health insurance and meet income guidelines.

2008 Income Guidelines (a complete list can be viewed on the website under Women and Eligibility)

Family Size	Monthly Income	Yearly Income
1	\$1,733	\$20,800
2	\$2,333	\$28,000
3	\$2,933	\$35,200

Mammograms for qualified women 40 through 64 years of age  
Regular mammograms and clinical breast exam

Pap tests for qualified women 50 through 64\* years of age

\*Limited funds for women 30 through 49 years of age

Regular Pap tests and pelvic exams

Diagnostic services for abnormal tests

Referral to Montana Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program if necessary

**Want to make a referral to Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program?**

Women or medical providers may call the toll free number 1-888-803-9343

or [www.cancer.mt.gov](http://www.cancer.mt.gov)



**Medical Service Provider Updates:**

**Digital Mammography:**

MBCHP now reimburses for digital mammography at the Medicare rate.

**Liquid Based Cervical Cytology Policy Changes for the MBCHP:**

Liquid Based Test Pap test policy has been fully implemented and enforced this year. MBCHP began reimbursing the liquid based cervical cytology every two years for women with normal Pap test results. **If a woman had a normal liquid based Pap test last year she will not be eligible through the MBCHP for a Pap test this year.** This policy does not apply to women with abnormal Pap test results.

**2008-2009 Reimbursement/Fee Schedule:**

Can be found on our website [www.cancer.mt.gov](http://www.cancer.mt.gov) under Medical Service Providers

Congratulations to Charlotte Kelley, MBCHP's American Indian Screening Coordinator. Charlotte has been invited to be on the American Cancer Society's Circle of Life Advisory Group at the national level. Circle of Life is a program designed to decrease the breast cancer incidence and death rates among American Indian women using effective and culturally sensitive strategies.



MBCHP partnered with Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) to promote breast cancer awareness month in October. The theme was "What do mammograms and food have in common? Both are a necessity, not a luxury."

MBCHP information cards were distributed through MFBN food pantries statewide, including commodities on the Reservations. Eligible women are encouraged to enroll in the program and get screened.

Many families who use the emergency food pantries do not have insurance and would not have access to the preventive health care services of mammograms and Pap tests without MBCHP.

The success of this campaign will show through the number of women enrolled in the MBCHP during October 2008.



#### **MBCHP Data System Upgrade (web enabled)**

- Direct link to fiscal agent in "real time for faster, efficient and more accurate claim processing.
- Linking administrative sites to MBCHP data entry and reporting. As of November 2008, 6 out of 13 sites are actively entering site data.
- Linkage with the MT Central Tumor Registry to provide accurate tumor size and staging data.
- The MBCHP state database upgrade is a more robust system with higher speed, more data storage area and advanced statistical analysis abilities.

The MBCHP Quilts are registered with the Montana Historical Society. The Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition, (MAIWHC) quilt and the Awareness Project quilt will be on display in February 2009 at the Montana Historical Society Museum. See the "Quilt" link on MBCHP's web page for more information.

The MBCHP maintains a Toll Free Number for women and providers interested in the program  
**1-888-803-9343**

The Montana Breast and Cervical Health Program is a program of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Cost for developing and printing is through a CDC cooperative agreement